Surplus funds in AIIMS

1626. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flagship institute AIIMS continuously registering surplus fund for the last five years however failing to utilize the money allocated to the institute;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to allow commercialization of health care facilities when the institute stands for providing health care to the poorest of the poor and setting standards for medical education, etc;

(c) whether Government is considering not to proceed further commercialization of health care; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Madam. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have reported that the Institute receives lump-sum Grants-in-Aids under Plan and Non-Plan heads from the Government of India for patient care, research and teaching purpose. During the last five years entire Grants-in-Aids under Plan and Non-Plan head was utilized by the AIIMS. The poor and needy patients continue to get the free treatment at AIIMS. Besides, this patients admitted in the emergency wards are provided free treatment irrespective of their economic status.

Banning the sale of Gender Testing Kits

1627. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been received in his Ministry for banning the sale and use of gender testing kits in the country, particularly in the Northern States in view of alarming decline in s[illegible] ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been taken by his Ministry on such a request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A news report in the Hindustan Times dated 23.11.2007 indicated that Gender Testing Kits from the U.S. and Canada were available in certain up-markets of Punjab for Rs. 15 to 20 thousand and that certain Genetic Centres were importing/purchasing such kits online in response to the web ads of such kits and selling them to their clients.

The Customs Wing and the Department of Revenue were requested on 29.11.2007 and 5.1.2007 respectively to examine the possibility of intercepting such Gender Determination Kits when imported into the Country under the Customs Act and furnish details of the importers to facilitate the Ministry to take appropriate action against them under the PC & PNDT Act.

In the meanwhile, the Ministry of Women & Child Development requested this Ministry to prevent import of Gender Testing Kits into the country on the basis of same newspaper reported cited above.

In response to the above request of the Health Ministry, the Customs Department have suitably alerted their field formations not to release the imported Gender Testing Kits and to take appropriate action under the Customs Act, *vide* the Finance Ministry's reply to Unstarred Question No. 531, dated 4.3.2008.

Female foeticide cases in the country

†1628. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foeticide of girl child is being acted in many States;

(b) the number of cases come into light during the last three years, State-wise and the number of persons connected thereof;

(c) whether the existing law is sufficient enough to check this corrupt trend; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to streamline the control of foeticide test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Cases of foeticide male and female have increased in 2006 as compared to the years 2005 and 2004.

The NCRB have further furnished the following information:

The three States/UTs with the maximum number of cases registered under foeticide (male + female) during each of the years 2004-2006

2004	2005	2006
Rajasthan (17)	Chhattisgarh (21)	Rajasthan (25)
Haryana and Maharashtra (15 each)	M.P. and Punjab (12 each)	Punjab (22)
M.P. (9)	Rajasthan (10)	M.P. (14)

Sex determination techniques have been in use in India since 1975 primarily for the determination of genetic abnormalities. However, these techniques were widely misused to determine the sex of the foetus and subsequent abortions if the foetus was found to be female.

In order to check female foeticide, the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was brought into operation from 1st January, 1996. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has since been amended to make it more comprehensive. The amended Act and Rules came into force with effect from 14.2.2003 and the PNDT Act has been renamed as "Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994" to make it more comprehensive.

The technique of pre-conception sex selection has been brought within the ambit of this Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies, which significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio. Use of ultrasound machines has also been brought within the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.